

**The Literary Venom of Anti-Brahminism in Maharashtra, India:  
*Prof. Namdevrao Jadhav's Fabricated History, Anti-Brahminism and  
Prominence***

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**Abstract**

This work attempts to describe how venomous anti-Brahminism has become in Maharashtra, a state located in India, by scrutinising the contemporary Maratha historian Prof. Namdevrao Jadhav's history books, which appear to be popular. The work deems Prof. Namdevrao Jadhav, who is also an advisor to the Marathi TV serial on Shivaji: 'Raja ShivChhatrapati', to be the quintessence of the expeditiously spreading spurious and menacing anti-Brahmin mentality in Maharashtra. The work suggests how power overpowers the truth in Maharashtra and India.

The snake looks strong and venomous, the antivenin wee and feeble. Bring out a criticism of Shivaji – the most revered historical hero in Maharashtra – and even though it may be truthful, you risk being beaten up and jailed. Bring out an untruthful criticism of a Brahmin hero, and you largely secure praise.

There can perhaps be no better example than ‘Prof. Namdevrao Jadhav’, a contemporary Maratha writer of popular history books and an advisor to the Marathi TV serial on Shivaji: ‘Raja ShivChhatrapati’.<sup>1</sup> His understanding of science and history as well as his general knowledge seem hilariously weak;<sup>2</sup> his hatred for Brahmins and his passion for bolstering anti-Brahminism seem exasperatingly strong.

For example, it is the ‘16<sup>th</sup> century’ in which Shivaji lived<sup>3</sup> and it is the same century (or some century before it) in which the Industrial Revolution in Europe took place<sup>4</sup>, he seems to suggest. Samarth Ramdas, the famous Marathi-Brahmin saint and poet, was Afzal Khan’s guru, not Shivaji’s, he states.<sup>5</sup> No Muslim ruler opposed Shivaji’s coronation, he claims.<sup>6</sup> In his book on Shivaji’s son Sambhaji, he avoids the mention of chief traitors like Sambhaji’s mother-in-law ‘Soyarabai’ and his brother-in-law ‘Ganoji Shirke’ and holds Sambhaji’s Brahmin ministers almost entirely responsible for his downfall.<sup>7</sup> He dedicates his book on the Third Battle of Panipat to ‘Malhar Rao Holkar’<sup>8</sup> (the Maratha noble who once consistently cosseted ‘Najib Khan’ – a cardinal architect of the Maratha defeat – by regarding him as his ‘religious son’, and who fled the battleground) and seems to put all blame on Brahmin ministers and generals.<sup>9</sup>

Prof. Jadhav’s venom for Brahmins is evident in virtually each of his books. He seems clearly to be the quintessence of the expeditiously spreading spurious and menacing anti-Brahmin mentality in Maharashtra. His motives look crystal clear: turning all non-Brahmins against Brahmins. And with such malice and fabricated writings, he only seems to be getting more popular. His books can be found in almost any local bookshop. The truth doesn’t appear to be on his side, but power does; and it is power that appears to matter in Maharashtra and India, the truth doesn’t!

## Notes –

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<sup>1</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Shivray: Chhatrapati Maharajancha Ladhyayanvyatirikt Khara Itihas: Part - 1 (शिवराय: छत्रपती महाराजांचा लढायांव्यतिरिक्त खरा इतिहास: भाग - १). Rajmata Prakashan. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. 14 May 2011. Pg 1. [Marathi Book]

<sup>2</sup> For example, Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Shivray: Chhatrapati Maharajancha Ladhyayanvyatirikt Khara Itihas: Part - 1 (शिवराय: छत्रपती महाराजांचा लढायांव्यतिरिक्त खरा इतिहास: भाग - १). Rajmata Prakashan. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. 14 May 2011. Back Cover. ("१६ व्या शतकात धवनीचा आणि प्रकाशाचा संदेशवहनासाठी केलेला अभूतपूर्व उपयोग आता कोठे शास्त्रज्ञांना उमजू लागला आहे.") [Marathi Book]

<sup>3</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Shivaji The Management Guru (शिवाजी द मॅनेजमेंट गुरू). Rajmata Prakashan. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. 17 August 2011. Pg. 58, 61, 103, 115. [Marathi Book]

<sup>4</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Shivray: Chhatrapati Maharajancha Ladhyayanvyatirikt Khara Itihas: Part - 1 (शिवराय: छत्रपती महाराजांचा लढायांव्यतिरिक्त खरा इतिहास: भाग - १). Rajmata Prakashan. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. 14 May 2011. Back Cover. ("१६ व्या शतकात युरोपात झालेल्या औद्योगिक क्रांतीचा सर्वात अगोदर उपयोग करण्यासाठी महाराजांनी युरोपातून छापखाना आयात केला.") [Marathi Book]

<sup>5</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Shivray: Chhatrapati Maharajancha Ladhyayanvyatirikt Khara Itihas: Part - 1 (शिवराय: छत्रपती महाराजांचा लढायांव्यतिरिक्त खरा इतिहास: भाग - १). Rajmata Prakashan. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. 14 May 2011. Ramdas Gosawi (रामदास गोसावी). Pg 341, 346. [Marathi Book]

<sup>6</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Shivray: Swarajyasathi Ladhalelya Rashtranishtha Muslimancha Khara Itihas: Part - 3 (शिवराय: स्वराज्यासाठी लढलेल्या राष्ट्रनिष्ठ मुस्लीमांचा खरा इतिहास: भाग ३). Rajmata Prakashan. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. 19 February 2011. Muslim Samajache Swarajya Yogdan (मुस्लीम समाजाचे स्वराज्य योगदान). Pg. 22. [Marathi Book]

<sup>7</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Khara Sambhaji (खरा संभाजी). Rajmata Prakashan. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. 19 February 2011. Sambhaji Raje Jeevan Parichay (संभाजी राजे जीवन परिचय). Pg 16. [Marathi Book]

<sup>8</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Panipatcha Vijay (पानिपतचा विजय). Rajmata Prakashan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 1 February 2011. Pg 3. [Marathi Book]

<sup>9</sup> Prof Namdevrao Jadhav. Panipatcha Vijay (पानिपतचा विजय). Rajmata Prakashan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 1 February 2011. Pg 101, 121, 136-7, 266-270. [Marathi Book]